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Be Red Cross Ready

2013 ServeSymposium

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Presenters

- Kevin Murszewski, *Statewide Preparedness Director*, American Red Cross of Montana
- John Pavao, *State EEO and ADA Coordinator*, Department of Administration
- Adam Powers, *Emergency Preparedness Training Coordinator*, Department of Public Health and Human Services



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Session Objectives

(1) Personal Preparedness

How can you prepare yourself and your family for disasters and emergency situations of all types?

(2) Preparing Functional Needs Populations

How can you help prepare people that have special needs?

(3) Engaging Your Neighborhood & Community

How can you help make your neighborhood and community more resilient?



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Definitions

Disaster

A sudden calamitous event bringing great damage, loss or destruction

Preparedness

The state of having been made ready or prepared for use or action

Functional Needs Populations

Include but not limited to:

- Some senior citizens
- People with disabilities
- People who are non-English speakers
- People with substance abuse issues
- People who are homeless, marginally housed, or shelter dependent
- People with chronic medical conditions
- Children
- Tourists and visitors



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Why Prepare?

- The inability to receive services and supplies from first responders due to the scope of the disaster Increase your ability to assist others in need
- Increase the ability for first responders to focus their resources and efforts on those with special needs
- Increase the resiliency of your community and reduce the overall impact of the disaster



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Preparedness Messaging

1 Get a Kit



2 Make a Plan



3 Be Informed





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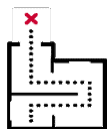


Get a Kit

Adult 3-day Emergency Preparedness kit



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Make a Plan

- Talk
- Plan
- Learn
- Tell
- Practice



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Be Informed



Know what may happen and how you can help

Identify how local authorities will notify you

Learn what you can do to prepare

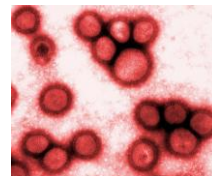
Share what you have learned



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Disease Disasters

- An often forgotten catastrophe:
 - Influenza
 - Norovirus
 - Pertussis (whooping cough)
 - Meningitis
 - Bacterial Infections
 - Environmental (respiratory, floods, vectors, etc.)
 - New or drug resistant





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Become Involved

“You know, we talk about resiliency, I think many people start out thinking of it as an engineering problem - where do we put the seawall against a hurricane, where do we put the concrete barrier against a terrorist bombing. And it seems that you're saying that resiliency is more of a social problem. How do we build a strong community that can deal with whatever may come up?”

~Steve Inskeep, National Public Radio, *Neighborhood Connections Key to Surviving a Crisis*, January 3, 2013



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Needed Roles

- General Labor
- Cleaning Houses
- Mental Health
- Medical – Healthcare
- Structural
- Debris Removal
- Donations Management





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Providing Community Support

- Family First
- Pros
 - Organization
 - Leadership
 - Accountability
 - Cost
 - Warm Bodies
 - Aligned with current missions



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Providing Community Support Cont.

- Cons
 - Incident Management Control
 - Injuries/Workers Comp
 - Abilities (Physical and Mental)
 - Dependability
 - Credentials
 - Hidden Agendas
 - Proselytizing





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Traditional Emergency Volunteer Opportunities

- Law Enforcement
- Fire Service
- EMS
- Hospitals
- Search and Rescue
- Parks and Recreation
- Red Cross
- Community
Emergency Response
Teams (CERT)

**ALL REQUIRE
TRAINING**



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Civic Groups

Examples

- AARP
- American
Legion
- Eagles
- Justice
League
- Scouts
- VOAD





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Faith-Based Organizations

Examples

- DHS Center for Faith Based and Neighborhood Partnerships
- Salvation Army
- Lutheran Disaster Response
- Habitat for Humanity
- Knights of Columbus
- For most religions there is a disaster organization



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Private Sector and Non-Profits

Examples

- Pacific Power and Light
- Electric Cooperatives
- Banks
- Chamber of Commerce
- Montana Community Foundation
- Food Bank
- Big Brothers/ Big Sisters
- Local Pet Shelters

www.mtnonprofit.org





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Schools

Examples

- HOSA
- Sports Teams
- Key Clubs
- Sports Teams
- College
- 4 H



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Individual Efforts

- Neighbors
- Self Deployed
- Spontaneous Volunteers





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National and International Support



- Military
- AmeriCorps
- Peace Corps
- UNICEF
- Oxfam International
- International Rescue Committee
- Doctors without Borders
- United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)
- International Committee of the Red Cross



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Donating

- Choose Carefully
 - Be aware of fly by night operations
 - Donations in line with your own beliefs
- Donate Funds not Goods
 - Staffing issues
 - Transportation issues
 - Storage issues
 - Perishable Items
 - What do people really need



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Get Started

- Host a Neighborhood Preparedness Party
- Coordinate a Be Red Cross Ready Workshop
- Participate in a Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Training
- Attend a Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Meeting



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Preparing for the Needs of People with Disabilities and Montana's Seniors





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People with Disabilities in Montana

- 13.1% - all ages
- .6% - ages 4 and under
- 4.4% - ages 5 to 15
- 5.3% - ages 16 to 20
- 10.8% - ages 21 to 64
- 26.8% - ages 65 to 74
- 55.0% - ages 75+



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Montanans by Type of Disability

- 2.4% - visual disability
- 5.1% - hearing disability
- 7.0% - ambulatory disability
- 4.8% - cognitive disability
- 2.7% - self-care disability
- 5.3% - independent living





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Montana is Aging

“In 2000, Montana ranked 14th in the nation in percentage of our elderly population to total population. By 2025, just 14 short years away, Montana is projected to rank no less than 5th and could be as high as 3rd in the nation in the percent of those over the age of 65. This means that at least 25% or 1 in 4 people in Montana will be over the age of 65 by the year 2025.”

[Montana State Plan on Aging, October 1, 2011, to September 30, 2015](#)



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Preparation

- **Personal Support Network**
 - Family, Friends, Neighbors, Care Providers, Coworkers, Community Resources
- **Personal Assessment**
 - Capabilities, Needs, Resources, Lowest Anticipated Level of Functioning
- **Plan**
 - Evacuation, Escape Routes and Safe Places, Communication Plan, Meeting Locations, Transportation, Medical Needs, Service Animals





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Important Considerations

- **Medical Information**

- Current Conditions, Limitations, Medications, Treatments, Care Providers



- **Supplies and Equipment**

- Medications, Oxygen, Monitors, Dialysis Equipment
- Wheel Chairs, Walkers, Crutches, Canes, Prosthetics
- Hearing Devices, Eye Glasses, Contact Lenses, Assistive Devices, Chargers, Batteries
- Personal Care Items, Dentures, Sanitary Supplies, Urinary Supplies, Bandages and Dressings
- Communication Cards, Note Pads, Writing Utensils



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Service Animals

- A Dog “Individually Trained to do Work or Perform Tasks for People with Disabilities”
- Only 2 Questions: 1) is the dog a service animal required because of a disability and 2) what work or task has the dog been trained to perform
- May include “miniature horses”
- Plan Ahead: Food, Water, and Dish, Cage or Carrier, Collar, Leash, Harness, Toys, Treats, Blankets, Medication, Shot Records





Resources

Special Needs Inclusion Toolkit

- Booklets, brochures, planning guides
- Available at: <http://serve.mt.gov/disability-inclusion/>



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Resources

- Governor's Office of Community Service [Ready Montana](#) Initiative
- Federal Emergency Management Agency's [Ready.gov](#)
- American Red Cross's [Be Red Cross Ready](#)
- American Red Cross's [Ready Rating](#) program



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